

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, August 13, 2018**

Roll Call: Commissioners Dennis Donahue (absent), Steve Fitzhugh, Julie Goodrich, and Ken Goslant. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Utility Superintendent Pat Demasi, Gerard LaVarnway, Jonathon Spencer, Gretchen Dunn. The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes from Previously Meetings

Motion by Steve Fitzhugh, second by Ken Goslant to approve the minutes of June 11, 16, 2018. Julie Goodrich noted that the minutes incorrectly stated that she attended the meeting. **Motion, as amended, passed 3-0.**

Meeting of the Electric Commission Meeting

VPPSA Solar Project - Cheney Farm

Steve Fitzhugh stated that the Select Board and Electric Utility Commission held two joint public hearings to solicit public comment on a potential VPPSA's utility-scale solar project on the Cheney Farm. Steve added that based upon public comments from the hearings, it appears that residents want to have a public vote on the project. Ken Goslant agreed stating that a vote will allow additional time for more research and to address the unanswered questions. The Commission discussed whether to have the vote in November or wait until March. The general consensus was to have the vote in March. Steve Fitzhugh made a motion, seconded by Julie Goodrich, to recommend that the Select Board hold public vote on whether the Community should move forth with the project in March.

Next, Jonathon Spencer, Northfield resident asked how the wording for the ballot will be worded, and that it should include wording regarding project ownership. If not included, it could affect a person's decision on how to vote. Steve Fitzhugh stated that the vote would be non-binding and advisory to the Select Board, and should a question regarding whether the Community supports a solar project on the Cheney Farm. Detailed regarding project details and ownership will be determined at a later date.

After further discussion, Steve Fitzhugh made an amendment to previous motion, Ken Goslant seconded, to recommend to the Select Board that the Board put a non-binding vote on the March ballot asking the voter if they support a utility size solar project on the Cheney Farm. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Annual Reports

Steve Fitzhugh stated that the Commissions need to prepare annual utility reports similar to the Town Reports and similar to the reports prepared by Village prior to merger. The reports should include budgets and a written report by the manager and utility superintendent. The goal is to have the reports completed by mid-September.

Other Business

Gretchen Dunn asked how others who are interested in energy issues in Northfield can better coordinate or work with the Electric Commission on energy issues. Steve Fitzhugh stated that electricity is just one of the elements of energy use and efficiency. The electric piece is technical and specialized. He noted that Northfield's Energy Futures Committee is focused on the other energy issues. Gretchen noted that she has joined that group and they are having a public discussion on energy issue this Thursday evening.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

Patrick Demasi gave an update on the Water/Sewer Department noting that they are nearly finished with the Union Street Water Line project. The remaining work on the project includes the repaving of the sidewalk and site clean-up; both of which are on hold until details and construction on the Union Street Stormwater project is completed. The stormwater project is on hold because of higher than expected project costs, and the resulting need to obtain additional project funds from the State of Vermont.

Patrick also noted that the North Street Water Line project is also nearly finished.

Jeff Schulz noted that the Agency of Natural Resources inspected Northfield's Sewer Plant and found no major concerns or violations.

Motion by Ken Goslant, second by Steve Fitzhugh, to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric Commission and the Water/Sewer Commissions. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Clerk